

## **Community Conversation Results**

Participants were asked to select one of three visions for the future of Morgan Hill: minimal government services at minimal cost; preservation of the current level of services; or enhancement of Morgan Hill as a community.

After discussing their vision and values with each other:

- 13% of participants said they preferred minimal government services at minimal cost
- 54% of participants preferred preserving the current level of services
- 33% of participants preferred enhancing Morgan Hill as a community

## **Options for Raising Revenue**

When asked to select two of the options presented for raising revenue, 66% of participants chose a development tax; 58% chose to increase the sales tax through retail development; and less than 15% supported a sales tax, parcel tax, lighting and landscaping assessment, fire suppression assessment district, or a utility users tax. When participants were asked for new revenue ideas, their suggestions included implementing a real property transfer tax, not extending the Redevelopment Agency and thereby allowing the property tax to go to the General Fund, increasing the use of volunteers and grants, and contracting out City services and recreational facilities.

## **Options for Reducing Costs**

When asked about options for reducing costs, 34% supported cuts to administration, which has a net cost of \$1.1 million; 31% supported cuts to recreation, which has a net annual cost of \$1 million; 18% supported cuts to park maintenance, which has a net cost of \$0.6 million. The following options received less than 15% support: cut/contract the police force; cut fire and emergency response services; and spread the pain. There was no significant support for reducing police or fire services, which require 82% of the City's General Fund discretionary resources at current service levels.

The City has already reduced spending by about \$1 million a year by eliminating 10.75 positions in administration, recreation, park maintenance and police support; reducing facility hours and expenses for employee training, conferences and events; reducing public communication; and reducing management studies.

## **Enhancing Services**

When asked which services they would choose to enhance, 71% of participants chose police service as their first or second priority; and 55% of participants chose increased summer and after-school programs as their first or second priority.